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04-0457/59

9 April 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Research and Reports

ATTENTION: Control Staff

25X1D

FROM: CIA Senior Representative [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Possible Locations for CHICOM Guided Missile Bases

25X1D

1. [REDACTED] requests that a study be made of the geography of China in China that would be adequate for guided missile range purposes. In addition to a list of areas selected they require an elaboration on the existing or potential characteristics which led to the selection of the areas. It is hoped that a study similar to CIA, RM-28-103, can be developed.

2. There have been reports of unknown reliability that the Chinese Communists are interested in or becoming active in the field of guided missiles. Even if they are not now active in this field it is logical and reasonable that they will become so involved in the future. Although it is unlikely that the Chinese Communists will engage in test activities for some time to come, it is likely that they will have a requirement for training range facilities. The criteria for a range location are fairly universal and have been employed by both the US and USSR in establishing their overland ranges. In view of this, it is assumed that there will be a well-defined limitation on the number of areas in China that will warrant consideration.

3. Since there is no reason to believe that the Chinese Communists would be restricted to any single type of missile, consideration of areas suited to range operations should include the varying requirements of the entire missile family, viz. SSN, SAM, ASM and AAM.

4. NSA would be happy to discuss the requirement with you people if you feel it would be helpful.

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